

Rhein-Main troop is first A1C controller in AMC

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For most young airmen in today's Air Force, their first assignment is a challenging, busy time, which includes adapting to the Air Force lifestyle, technical training, career development courses and the demanding pace of operations tempo.

Airman 1st Class David White, a senior controller in the Air Terminal Operations Center here, has been able to balance all of the above and reach full certification in record time.

The command post at Rhein-Main is unique in Air Mobility Command because it wears two hats; acting as both the base command post and as an Air Mobility Command Center.

As one can imagine, being a senior controller is a very difficult job to master, considering Rhein-Main has been the busiest strategic aerial port in the Department of Defense since September 11.

White wasn't even supposed to come to Rhein-Main, because restrictions dictate that only 5-Level senior airmen who have completed all required career development courses and the Air Mobility Warfare Cen-

ters Command and Control course can work at Rhein-Main.

This is because Rhein-Main is manned only for single controller operations, and before September 11, it was a single person operation.

White arrived here two years ago from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., where he was a distinguished graduate in his class. He was supposed to spend his entire time here as an assistant controller, never to man the console by himself. This was due to his 3-level rating and a lack of requirements needed to be a senior controller.

White, however, refused to be daunted and finished his CDC's in 3 months time, scoring a respectable 87 percent. He also completed all required core tasks by AMC standards, passed a rigorous job-knowledge test and oral exam and performed beyond all expectations in his probationary period.

After White proved his dedication and received his 5-level certification, his officer in charge began to pursue a waiver to allow White to be the first 5-level airman first class controller in AMC.

The waiver process was long and drawn out, but after many calls and e-mails it was



Photo By Airman 1st Class Andrew Rouleau

Airman 1st Class David White verifies a workload on the command control system. White is the first A1C to become a controller in Air Mobility Command.

determined that final approval authority rested at Headquarters United States Air Force. The waiver was eventually granted, and on August 13, Lt. Col David Rodriguez, 726th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron commander, certified Airman White as a senior controller.

White is now the first Airman first class to become a senior controller in AMC.

He now has the awesome responsibility of managing and

controlling aircraft, operations and emergency responses to crisis; while meeting the incredible demands of Operation Enduring Freedom. But, he is more than ready for the challenge.

"David impresses you with his will to get the job done," said Master Sgt. Pat Dolan, ATOC superintendent. "He is one of the most mature airmen I have had work for me in 15 years of supervising; I trust him implicitly."